

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CAPITO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. CURTIS, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 62. Joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the second session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1755. An act to direct the Department of Homeland Security to undertake a study on emergency communications.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276a of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the United States-China Interparliamentary Group conference during the One Hundred Eleventh Congress:

The Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND.)

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, in accordance with the qualifications specified under section 1238(b)(3)(E) of Public Law 106-398, and upon the recommendation of the Republican Leader, in consultation with the Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, reappoints the following individual to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission:

Daniel Blumenthal of Maryland, for a term beginning January 1, 2010, and expiring December 31, 2011.

#### IS THIS REALLY THE BEST WE CAN DO?

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. The word is that, with over 15 million Americans out of work and desperately in need of extended unemployment benefits, Congress will put unemployment compensation benefits into a bill which will give another \$130 billion for war. Remember, our Democratic Party took

control of Congress based on widespread opposition to the Iraq war. Unfortunately, we're now telling the American people the only way they'll get their unemployment compensation is to support another \$130 billion to keep wars going.

What a cruel choice Congress is forcing on people out of work: Put your sons and daughters on the firing line, and we'll pay you for being in the unemployment line. What a message to young Americans. No jobs for young people except to go to war. No chance for young people to go to college and have health care unless they learn to kill or be killed. Support this war, we tell the people, the war, which creates death, war which creates poverty, and war which creates unemployment, and we'll pay you for being unemployed.

Is this really the best we can do?

#### MORE JOB CREATION ALTERNATIVES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, there are many jobs creation proposals that have been presented but have been ignored. Many will help promote jobs immediately, provide a 5 percent across-the-board tax cut, increase the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$5,000, repeal the alternative minimum tax on individuals, permanently repeal required distributions on retirement accounts, increase by 50 percent the tax deduction on student loans and tax deduction on qualified higher education expenses, make unemployment benefits tax free so those individuals between jobs can focus on providing for their families, and, to encourage responsible buyers to enter the housing market and stabilize prices, offer a homebuyer's tax credit of \$15,000.

Both parties should consider positive alternatives that offer tax relief to small businesses and families to promote job creation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. Our prayers are with Wayne Dell and his family.

#### THE BEST SOCIAL PROGRAM IS A JOB

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, the best social program is a job. It provides individuals and families with the means to support themselves. It also provides dignity and confidence to know that they actually have a viable future. That's why in eastern Connecticut we were very pleased a couple of weeks ago that the stimulus bill released money for the incumbent worker training program, a program which

will provide 800 new jobs with funds directly sent to small- and medium-sized businesses, which is part of, again, the tried and true program that the stimulus bill expanded.

The president of Willimantic Savings Institute, Rheo A. Brouillard, who's going to have 200 new workers as a result of this program, said, The grants have assisted us in hiring of entry-level employees and enabled us to provide them with new skills needed to more readily advance their banking careers. The Norwich Bulletin, the largest newspaper in New London County, indicated that this is an excellent program, and this is what the stimulus package was intended to do.

Putting people to work is the best way to build a strong and vibrant economy. We need to build on the stimulus bill with these types of programs: first-time homebuyer tax credit, Cash For Clunkers, incumbent worker training programs. Steadily but surely we are turning this economy around, and we need a new jobs package to build on that success.

#### NANCY SHOBE'S RETIREMENT

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nancy Shobe on her 41 years of service to the constituents of Buckhannon, West Virginia, and to congratulate her on her upcoming retirement.

Nancy has served as the secretary to the mayor, computer systems manager, human resource manager, recorder, treasurer, and acting mayor during her 41 years of service to the city of Buckhannon. She's served as president of the Municipal Clerks and Records Association and was selected as Clerk of the Year in 1997 and 1998. She also received a Certificate of Highest Merit from West Virginia University's Local Government Leadership Academy. And most recently, she was awarded the Quiet Strength Award for her outstanding leadership.

Nancy's leadership was proven during the difficult times after the Sago Mine disaster. Being the closest incorporated city to the Sago Mine, the city of Buckhannon was able to provide grief counseling for the families of the Sago miners, largely due to her efforts.

She has proven herself to be a true leader and a dedicated public servant whose positive impact in our community will be felt for many years to come.

I join with the residents of Buckhannon, West Virginia, in commending Nancy Shobe for her outstanding leadership and commitment over the past 41 years, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her.

#### A NEW DEAL FOR A NEW ECONOMY

(Mr. HARE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARE. The unemployed don't want another benefits check. They want a job. And I'm proud to say that on Friday, I introduced H.R. 4290, the New Deal for a New Economy Act, which would tackle this problem by creating and helping retain millions of jobs. It will reach that goal by investing \$60 billion per year over 3 years in TARP money.

First, it would invest heavily in the creation of public works and public interest jobs through the creation of the new economy grant program. The jobs could be filled by persons of all skill levels, specifically in the areas of public works projects on the State and local level, and public interest work with community-based nonprofit organizations.

Secondly, it would provide a direct line of funding to states and localities to help alleviate their financial woes. The funding would protect and allow for the expansion of our current workforce and would be channeled directly to local governments through the popular grants programs for COPS hiring, for SAFER Grants for our firefighters, and a public works and economic development grant program. Further, my bill would provide much-needed funding to our Nation's schools to protect our teachers and hire more to meet the needs of our children.

The third and final piece of this bill is one that is critical to restoring our Nation's lands for future generations. It's a direct line of funding to our national forests and national parks to address some of their many high-needs projects that have been neglected for decades.

Mr. Speaker, Wall Street got its bailout. It's time for Main Street to get theirs. Again, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

#### TOO MANY PRIORITIES

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, if we don't heed Moody's warning, our Nation's AAA credit rating is likely to be downgraded due to unsustainable deficits by 2013. And what does this President and this majority do to answer this serious issue? Spend more money we don't have at record levels.

The President and the majority party have no interest in reining in the budget deficit. Just this weekend, top White House advisers said that tackling the deficit was not a priority. This administration has a lot of priorities. A frequent criticism has been that it has too many priorities. Apparently everything is a priority except for deficit reduction. I guess this shouldn't be a surprise coming from an administration that, in its first year in office, tripled the budget deficit to an all-time record high of \$1.4 trillion.

The President just graded his job performance on the Oprah show as a B-plus. I can only imagine, and with fear, the kind of deficit the President would have run-up if he had given himself an A.

#### IRAN REFINED PETROLEUM SANCTIONS ACT

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, despite its claims of pursuing only a peaceful nuclear program, Iran's actions clearly show that it's developing a nuclear bomb. You only need three elements to create a bomb: material, a delivery system, and a warhead. Iran has or almost has all three of these elements.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Tehran has developed 1¾ tons of low-enriched uranium, enough to make two bombs. As for a delivery system, we know Iran has missiles and in May, tested a new long-range missile that can reach Israel, our other allies, and our troops in the region.

Regarding a warhead, the IAEA has evidence that Iran is working on fitting a bomb inside a missile cone. And this week it was reported that Iran has a plan to test a neutron initiator, a component that is used only to trigger a nuclear bomb and has no possible civilian applications.

As we stand here debating, Iran is making a nuclear bomb. The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act will send a signal to Tehran that we will not stand by silently while they develop a nuclear weapon and threaten the entire region.

#### MEDICARE SENIORS CANNOT AFFORD THE REID-PELOSI PLAN

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, Democrats in the Senate are desperately looking for 60 votes for health care, so desperate that, in a new report released last week, the chief actuary of Medicare found the Reid-Pelosi bill would cause many physicians to stop treating seniors because of \$465 billion in cuts to the Medicare program.

Unfortunately for Medicare beneficiaries, the CMS actuary also found that 20 percent of hospitals and nursing homes would go into the red within the next 10 years due to these cuts, seriously threatening the ability of seniors to rely on these institutions for their care.

As if that were not enough, the Reid bill would also cut payments to Medicare Advantage plans by roughly \$120 billion, plans that 11 million seniors enjoy today. These cuts, according to the actuary, will result in 3.7 million seniors losing benefits under Medicare, causing many to pay more out of pocket each month for the drugs and services they lost. The.

Reid-Pelosi bill will make it harder for seniors to find treatment or afford care when they are sick.

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#### HONORING ERIE HERO CLARA WARD

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, an extraordinary woman in Erie, Pennsylvania. Clara Ward, the founder of the Youth Development and Family Center in Erie, was the star of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" this week, where her dedication to children in need was rewarded with an amazing renovation to her home.

With the help of her daughter Cynthia and son Benny, Clara Ward offers her neighborhood's children a safe haven from the streets. Every year, Clara gives 300 children presents for the holidays, and every day, she provides food to children who otherwise would go to bed hungry.

We all have so much to learn from Clara and her spirit of generosity. It is my hope that we carry this lesson through the holiday season and into the new year.

#### A BOX OF DOUGHNUTS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, requiring Americans to buy health insurance or pay a fine or even go to jail if the fine tax is unpaid is utterly without constitutional authority. Under the Constitution, a citizen has no affirmative duty to purchase a mandated congressional product. Citizens have the right to do nothing.

The bruisers of the Constitution claim people must buy car insurance. That analogy is flawed. First, States, not Congress, have authority under the 10th Amendment that is not given to Congress. Second, driving is a privilege, not a right, and to exercise that privilege, a driver must buy insurance. But no one is forced to drive a car. Third, car insurance is to protect a third party from the driver. No State requires a driver to buy insurance for themselves.

A better analogy would be, in the name of promoting commerce, forcing all people to buy a car whether they wanted to or not, whether they could afford it or not, or be punished. Congress, by force, requiring all people to buy a product, whether it's health insurance or a car or even a box of doughnuts is unconstitutional and abuse of congressional authority.

And that's just the way it is.

#### THE STIMULUS BILL

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)